

Gainesville Daily Sun

VOL. XXIV, NO. 273

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1907

TEN CENTS A WEEK

DARR MINE DISASTER

Work of Taking Out Mangled Bodies Proceeds Slowly.

POISONOUS GAS INTERFERES

Reliable Estimates on the Number of Victims Are Near 200—Much Suffering Among Victims' Families—Relief Committees To Be Formed.

Jacobs Creek, Pa., Dec. 23.—In the short distance rescuers were able to penetrate the Darr mine, the scene of Thursday's explosion, Friday night, half a dozen bodies were found and brought to the surface, making the total number that have reached the morgue up to Saturday morning 12.

Danger of Other Explosions. While a vast amount of work was done during the night, not much progress was made towards the entries in which the great mass of bodies are entombed. The danger of another explosion is imminent and the rescuing forces dare not venture far ahead of the forces erecting the temporary brattices. Vast quantities of gas have been encountered and the volume seems to be steadily increasing.

Company officials have ordered that exploring parties shall advance only as fast as the passage way can be cleared of gas, ventilated and otherwise made safe. While what appears to be the most reliable estimates on the number of victims are near 200, there are many who insist that the final list of dead will contain many more names.

Michael Halpy, national organizer for the United Mine Workers of America, who has assumed charge here for the organization, says: "House-to-house canvass."

"I have made a house-to-house canvass among the families here, and am certain that there are 200 dead men in the Darr mine."

Evidence of much suffering and distress among those dependent upon the victims has already been disclosed and steps have been taken to organize relief committees. The Connellsville board of trade has subscribed \$100, and called a meeting for ministers of all denominations to organize a permanent committee. New Haven took similar action. McKeesport has also started a relief movement, while in Pittsburgh funds are being raised to be distributed among the sufferers of the recent disasters.

James E. Roderick, chief of the state department of mining, has ordered the nine mine inspectors of the state to meet him here to assist in rescue work and to investigate the cause of the explosion.

Evans' Fleet Heard from.

New York, R. I., Dec. 23.—The wireless apparatus at the navy yard Friday night succeeded in catching parts of a message from the battleships of the fleet of Admiral Evans, the Connecticut, and the battleship Alabama, but the working of a Long Island steamer's wireless machine, it is claimed, interfered with perfect work. Lloyd Rooney, aged 14, whose wireless apparatus of his own invention is conceded to be one of the best on the coast, caught messages from the battleships which are now 1,200 miles distant in a straight line. His success was verified by the naval station.

Trouble May Be Arbitrated.

New York, Dec. 23.—The local branch of the Brotherhood of Carpenters has decided not to accept the cut in wages from \$5 to \$4.50 a day, proposed by the master carpenters. The cut was to become effective on January 14. The master carpenters say that in the present state of trade the cut is necessary. It is probable that the trouble will be arbitrated.

Pleads Self-Defense in Murder Case.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 23.—J. T. Whitfield, who recently shot and killed W. E. Perryman, a carpenter, with whom he had a previous difficulty in a saloon, is on trial for the homicide. He pleads self-defense declaring that Perryman cursed him and his wife, with whom he was walking just before the shooting.

TRAGEDY IN NEW YORK.

South Carolinian Kills Prominent Business Man and Himself.

New York, Dec. 23.—Jas. H. Oliphant, senior member of the stock exchange firm of James H. Oliphant & Co., is dead from a bullet wound inflicted at his office Friday afternoon by Charles A. Geiger, a customer from Beaufort, S. C., who, after firing upon Oliphant, killed himself.

The men were closeted in Oliphant's private office at the time, and all that is known of what immediately preceded the shooting was learned from the lips of the broker before he died.

Oliphant said that his refusal to extend further credit to Geiger caused the tragedy. There is reason to believe, however, that Geiger had become mentally irresponsible. A note book found upon his person contained computations by which the writer apparently had figured that he would be worth \$3,000,000 by January 1, 1908. He actually possessed, so far as personal effects showed, less than \$11.

Geiger, it is said, owed the Oliphant company \$2,000, and had been asked for a settlement. He called at their office Friday, and after explaining that he could not meet his obligations, asked that the firm advance him sufficient credit to carry two thousand shares of a certain stock until a rise in the price should give him profit. His proposition was refused, and the shooting followed.

The offices of James H. Oliphant & Co., are at 20 Broad street, in the center of the financial district, and the shooting caused a sensation in the street, and temporarily interrupted the business of the curb traders, the scene of whose activities are overlooked from the big office building.

GAVE LIVE SKIN TO FRIEND.

Successful Skin-Grafting Performed on New York Man.

New York, Dec. 23.—Frank Waters will be able to eat his Christmas dinner at home because thirty of his friends gave bits of their skin to help him.

Waters was burned by a premature explosion of fireworks July 4, and has been in a hospital ever since. For nearly five months the burns refused to heal and the doctors finally decided that skin grafting was necessary.

Waters was a member of the Holy Name Society, of St. Lucy's Roman Catholic church, and the young men's society was asked to come to Waters' assistance. Thirty were selected, and from the arm of each was taken a bit of live skin which was applied to the wounds on Waters' body. It took five days to complete the operation, which has proved successful.

RUSH TO PAY TAXES.

Over \$228,000 Received by Georgia State Treasurer on Friday.

Atlanta, Dec. 23.—Nearly a quarter of a million dollars, or to be exact, \$228,456.79, was received and accepted for by the state treasurer and comptroller general on Friday in the way of tax money, for it was the last day allowed under the law for corporations to pay their taxes for the year 1907.

After this all delinquents will pay the state interest at 7 per cent for failure to pay these taxes promptly.

The corporations awoke to the fact that it was the "last day" to pay with a rush, and the golden flood resembled a tidal wave as it rushed into the state vaults in the capitol.

Wanted as a Witness.

New York, Dec. 23.—Robert Caldwell, the American witness in the famous Druce case in London, was arrested at Hoboken, N. J., Saturday after the arrival of the steamer Katsurin Auguste Victoria here. The arrest was made upon request from the British authorities, Caldwell was taken into custody soon after he left the steamer.

One Killed; One Fatally Hurt.

Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 23.—Mrs. James Schofield was killed and Miss Louisa French was fatally hurt, and a Miss Walters was seriously injured when an engine struck their buggy while they were crossing a track Saturday morning.

IS GIVEN AN OVATION

Subjects Delighted at Recovery of Francis Joseph.

HE DRIVES TO THE HOFBURG

There the Monarch Received Members of the Hungarian and Austrian Delegations and Read to Them Speech from the Throne.

Vienna, Dec. 23.—Emperor Francis Joseph, whose life 64 years ago was despaired of, drove from the castle at Schoenbrunn to the Hofburg in Vienna Saturday morning, and in the throne room of the Hofburg received the members of the Hungarian and Austrian delegations and read to them the speech from the throne.

This is the first time since his serious illness that the emperor has left



EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH.

Schoenbrunn, and the public seized the opportunity to show its delight at the recovery of the monarch.

The entire route between the two palaces was decorated lavishly. The houses along the way were decked with flags and flowers and dense masses of people thronged the streets. The windows were crowded with ladies, who waved their handkerchiefs as the sovereign drove by, and throughout the half hour's drive the emperor was the recipient of a remarkable ovation. He was in an open carriage, and he showed practically no trace of his recent serious illness.

At the Hofburg the emperor alighted briskly from his carriage. Burgo-master Leuger and the members of the privy council awaited the emperor at the entrance of the Hofburg. Herr Lugger, welcomed him, and congratulated him on his recovery on behalf of the city of Vienna.

It had been intended to have the emperor's route from Schoenbrunn lined with school children, but at the last moment the emperor prohibited this on account of the wintry weather.

RESCUED OLD GLORY.

Workman Was Using American Flag to Clean Glass Windows.

New York, Dec. 23.—Wall street had a new sensation Friday when it saw a demonstration of patriotism.

Workmen on the roof of the government assay office were cleaning skylights when those in nearby buildings discovered that one of the men was using an old American flag as a rag to clean the glass.

Superintendent Foster's attention was called to the matter and he went to the roof of the building and rescued the old, discarded flag, while a large crowd cheered him from the windows of the adjoining buildings.

Mrs. Alice Birney Dead.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23.—Mrs. Alice McLellan Birney, founder and for five years president of the National Congress of Mothers, died Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock at her home at Chevy Chase, a suburb of Washington. Mrs. Birney was born in Atlanta, Ga., her maiden name being McLellan. She conceived the idea of the national mothers' conference, and soon after the death of her second husband, in 1897, she called her first congress, and was made its president. Mrs. Birney was widely known as a writer upon education and the care of children, and her efforts to uplift humanity brought to her a wide circle of friends.

WARREN LOTT KILLED.

Ordinary of Ware County, Ga., Meets with Fatal Accident.

Waycross, Ga., Dec. 23.—This city was shocked by the news received Friday morning that Hon. Warren Lott, who, for the last twenty-four years, has been the ordinary of Ware county, and who was among south Georgia's most prominent citizens, had accidentally killed himself.

Judge Lott and Dr. M. M. Johnson, of this place, had gone to Waycross, where they were joined by Geo. Dent, of that place, and the three gentlemen had gone upon a quail hunt on the farm of Henry Mullis, a short distance from Waycross.

At the time of the accident Dr. Johnson was some distance in front of Judge Lott, when he heard the report of a gun. Shortly afterwards he heard groans, and turning, he listened and heard Judge Lott. He hastened to him, and found Judge Lott in an unconscious condition on the ground, with his gun leaning against the fence. Judge Lott lived only about a minute. Before he died he made two efforts to speak in answer to questions propounded by Dr. Johnson.

It appears that Judge Lott attempted to crawl over a fence about four feet high, and it seems that he had placed the gun on the opposite side before making the attempt to climb over. In climbing he struck the gun, which was thus discharged.

COLLISION ON L. & N.

Several Persons Injured in Crash Near Calera, Ala.

Calera, Ala., Dec. 23.—A collision occurred one mile south of Calera at 6:30 o'clock Friday night between the fast south-bound passenger train, No. 3, of the Louisville and Nashville railroad, and the north-bound freight train, No. 18.

Engineer Dave Watts, of the passenger train; Engineer J. D. Hays, of the freight train; Mail Clerk Shea, and J. D. Long, a tramp, were seriously, but not fatally, injured.

A number of passengers were slightly hurt.

Both engines were demolished, the mail car was wrecked, and a number of freight cars were derailed. The passenger train was running behind its schedule, and the freight train appears to have overlooked this fact. Both engineers had their trains under control, or the collision would have been more serious.

Man's Skeleton Located.

Harwell, Ga., Dec. 23.—Friday the officers, accompanied by Mrs. Wall, went to the place where it was alleged that Hugh Wall had buried the negro, John Norris, whom he is said to have killed with a shovel in a gambling game, afterwards making his wife assist in the burial of the corpse. There were evidences of a hole having been dug in the ground, and upon opening up the place the skeleton of a man was found. Upon examination it was found that the back of the skull was crushed in, and the front of the face mutilated. Wall then implicated two negroes, Ernest Gray and Bill Hitchcock. Wall and the two negroes were arrested and are now confined in jail.

Will Answer to Highest Court.

San Bernardino, Dec. 23.—O. J. Watkins, general manager of the California Fruit Growers' association, who was recently released from custody in Los Angeles under \$10,000 bond to answer to a federal grand jury indictment charging use of the mail for fraudulent purposes, died Friday night at the county hospital, of injuries received a few hours before, when he was run over at the Santa Fe freight station here by a wagon loaded with his household effects, which he was shipping to Los Angeles.

Body Recovered from River.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 23.—The body of John S. Harns has been recovered from the Altamaha river, where he and three companions were drowned early in December. Harns was the first body to be recovered. A reward of \$150 for his recovery was offered. W. F. Hunt, of Savannah, and two locomotive engineers of Atlanta constituted the fishing party when the body was recovered.

SEVERE LOSS BY FIRE

Quarter Million Dollar Blaze at Baltimore, Md.

OTHER PROPERTY IN DANGER

About 300 Employees Worked at Different Avocations in the Burned Structure and These Have Been Thrown Out of Work Indefinitely.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 23.—A fire of threatening proportions broke out about 3:30 o'clock Saturday morning in the five-story building at 225 West Baltimore street, and was not extinguished until damage of nearly a quarter of a million dollars had been done.

The building was occupied by the wholesale millinery establishment of Wilenzig Bros. & Co., the Baltimore Overall company and Robinson, Venable & Co., cap makers.

The flames spread to No. 227 West Baltimore street adjoining. This building, also five stories, was destroyed above the second floor. It was occupied by Reinhardt, Meyer & Co., clothing, and the Walter L. Denny company, wall papers, the stock of both firms were ruined.

The fire also spread to No. 229, to No. 323, occupied by the Baltimore Shoe company, where damage was done by water as well as by fire.

Mr. Denny, of the wall paper company, said that his stock amounted to about \$20,000, nearly all covered by insurance.

Meyer Wilenzig, a member of the firm that occupied 325, could not give an estimate of his loss, but said that it would be very large, as the four floors used by his firm were stocked with millinery. His loss is partially covered by insurance. Mr. Wilenzig said he employed about 200 employees and that all of them were out of work until they started again.

The Baltimore Overall company employs about 150 hands, and this was their busy season.

The damage to buildings numbered 325 and 327, exclusive of stock, probably amount to between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

\$140,000 Fire at Detroit.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 23.—Fire early Saturday morning gutted the six-story brick building at the corner of Jefferson and Woodward avenues owned by Edwin S. George, fur dealer, and D. E. Kellogg, wholesale milliner.

The total losses is about \$140,000, divided as follows:

Edwin S. George, \$100,000; D. E. Kellogg, \$20,000, and W. N. Carter, fur estate, owners of the building, \$20,000.

Assistant Fire Chief Kelly and Fireman Robert Hummel were severely injured by escaping horses. Hummel's skull was fractured and he is in a serious condition.

CHILD BORN AT SEA.

Its Mother Died, However, Without Ever Seeing It.

New York, Dec. 23.—Among the passengers on board the Maudslayi, which arrived in New York yesterday, was Ruth Lang, thirteen days old.

The child was born at sea, off the west coast of Africa and her mother, who died, never seeing her.

On board the ship was Miss Mary Crosby, a missionary returning to her home in Houghton, N. Y. Mrs. Crosby is the mother of the child.

The little one's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Crosby, are now in Toronto, and the baby will be sent over to them. Ruth's father, who was a missionary, died in Africa many years ago as a missionary.

Bryan and Harmon in Birmingham.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 23.—It was announced Thursday that William Jennings Bryan and Judson Harmon, of Ohio, will be guests of the Alabama board of trade at the six o'clock dinner to be given on the night of January 23. Mr. Bryan will speak from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will leave for his home in Ohio at 9:30 p.m.